

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system comprising:

at least one processor unit;

at least one user input device communicatively coupled to said at least one processor unit;

a display device communicatively coupled to said at least one processor unit;

software code executable by said at least one processor unit to receive as input traveler information that includes contact information for a traveler and further executable to encode at least a portion of said traveler information into a machine-readable format; and

a printer communicatively coupled to said at least one processor unit to print at least the encoded portion of said traveler information on a tag in said machine-readable format.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said contact information includes temporary contact information.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said temporary contact information includes information specifying the time period during which such temporary contact information is valid for contacting said traveler.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said at least a portion of said traveler information encoded into said machine-readable format includes said temporary contact information.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said contact information includes mobile contact information.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said mobile contact information includes information selected from the group consisting of a cellular telephone number and a pager number.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said contact information includes at least one selected from the group consisting of:

home telephone number, work telephone number, cellular telephone number, pager number, and electronic mail address.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said traveler information further includes a travel itinerary for said traveler.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein said machine-readable format comprises a bar code format.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of said traveler information encoded into said machine-readable format includes said contact information.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein said software is further executable to encrypt said at least a portion of said traveler information.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said at least one processor unit, said at least one user input device, said display device, and said printer are included within a kiosk.

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13. A kiosk comprising:

means for processing computer-executable instructions;

means for receiving user input, the input receiving means communicatively coupled to the processing means;

5 means for displaying output to a user, the display means communicatively coupled to the processing means;

software code that is executable by the processing means for receiving as input user information useful for reconciliation of a user item with said user, said user information including contact information for said user; and

10 software code that is executable by the processing means for encoding at least a portion of said user information into a machine-readable format; and

means for outputting at least the encoded portion of said user information to a tag in said machine-readable format.

14. The kiosk of claim 13 wherein said contact information includes temporary contact information.

15. The kiosk of claim 14 wherein said temporary contact information includes information specifying the time period during which such temporary contact information is valid for contacting said user.

16. The kiosk of claim 14 wherein said at least a portion of said user information encoded into said machine-readable format includes said temporary contact information.

17. The kiosk of claim 13 wherein said user information further includes a travel itinerary for said user.

18. The kiosk of claim 13 wherein said at least a portion of said user information encoded into said machine-readable format includes said contact information.

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19. A method for generating a tag that comprises user information that is useful in reconciliation of a user item with a user, said method comprising the steps of:

presenting on a display a user interface to a user that prompts said user to input user information including contact information for said user;

5 receiving input from said user specifying said user information including contact information for said user;

encoding at least said contact information of said received user information into a machine-readable format, and

10 outputting at least the encoded contact information to a tag in said machine-readable format.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said contact information includes temporary contact information, and wherein said temporary contact information includes information specifying the time period during which such temporary contact information is valid for contacting said user.